



**HARRY DOUGLAS GIBSON CURRIE
(1907-1983)**

On June 4, 1983, the survey profession suffered the loss of a dedicated supporter and admirer with the passing of Harry Currie. Harry was a member of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors, the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors and the Canadian Institute of Surveying.

Harry was born in St. John's, Newfoundland in 1907 and educated at Methodist College in that city. It was during his youth in St. John's when Harry saw his first aeroplane land on the ice on Quidi Vidi Lake, that he began a lifelong love affair with flying. Harry held a pilot's licence until age dictated that he give up the hobby.

Harry's career in surveying began in 1931 when he apprenticed with the firm of Speight and Van Nostrand of Toronto. Harry received his commission as an Ontario Land Surveyor in 1935 and continue his employment with Speight's until 1950. During his time with Speight and Van Nostrand, Harry carried out a number of interesting survey projects including mining claim surveys in Northern Ontario and Quebec, and the surveys of a number of Indian Reserves which resulted in his reaching James Bay by canoe.

Harry interrupted his survey career to serve with the Royal Canadian Artillery and then the Royal Canadian Engineers during the Second World War, seeing service in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany between September of 1939 and December of 1945. Harry retired from the army with the rank of Major.

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On returning from Europe, Harry continued his employment with Speight and Van Nostrand until 1950 when he joined the CNR Survey Department. In 1953 he was appointed Regional Land Surveyor for the CNR Region which stretched from Port Arthur (Thunder Bay) on the west to Newfoundland in the east.

Harry spent some 25 years working on behalf of the AOLS. He was a member of AOLS Council from 1955 to 1958 and served as President in 1960-61. Harry also served on the Board of Examiners from 1958 to 1971 and was active as a lecturer during the period when the Association held the Lecture Course for candidates for the final examinations. Harry also served a term as Provincial Councillor on the CIS Council of Management.

Harry led a full and happy personal life, being married to Marion Savage, and has one daughter, Barbara. Harry was active in many clubs and Associations and particularly enjoyed flying, curling, and downhill and cross-country skiing. He and Marion were active in Scottish dancing until 1981.

One of Harry's proudest moments was on February 23, 1979 when he was honoured by his fellow surveyors and presented with the AOLS Fellowship Award at the annual meeting in Ottawa.

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